

Michael F. Easley
Governor



State of North Carolina Office of the Governor

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GOV. EASLEY ANNOUNCES 18 NEW LEARN AND EARN SCHOOLS OPEN FOR FALL *Six New Schools Open Today in Bertie, Currituck, Hertford, Hyde, Iredell and Tyrrell Counties*

RALEIGH – Gov. Mike Easley announced that 18 new *Learn and Earn* high schools are now open across the state. Six of the new schools, the Bertie County Early College High School in Windsor, the J.P. Knapp Early College High iSchool in Currituck, the Hertford Early College High School in Ahoskie, the Hyde Early College High School in Swan Quarter, the Visual and Performing Arts Early College High School in Statesville and the Columbia iSchool in Columbia, open today.

“With 18 new schools open this year, more students than ever have a chance to earn a free associate degree or two years of college credit along with their high school diploma,” said Easley. “*Learn and Earn* and the EARN grants are the best thing to happen to education in a long time. These programs provide thousands of students the opportunity to get a free college education and prepare for successful careers in the 21st century.”

The Bertie County Early College High School (BECHS), located on Shaw University’s Bertie Campus, will provide secondary and post-secondary learning opportunities to enable students to graduate from high school with two years of college credit. School curricula will focus on building literacy, leadership and content expertise in selected degree programs. During its first year, BECHS will establish its School of AgriScience Studies. With a curricula designed in part by N.C. State University, the School of AgriScience Studies will enable students to capitalize on and build careers around this district's most valuable natural resources. During its second year of operation, BECHS will continue to support its School of AgriScience Studies and will establish its School of Education, which will help train teachers who have a vested interest in the community. A third program area will be added in year three with a focus to be determined by student interest and community need. BECHS will integrate engaging teaching strategies, hands-on and field-based learning opportunities and service learning with a rigorous and relevant curriculum to ensure that students are well-prepared to enter college as juniors.

The J. P. Knapp Early College High iSchool works in collaboration with the University of North Carolina at Greensboro (UNC-G) iSchool to deliver online college courses to students. The J. P. Knapp Early College High iSchool is on the campus of the J. P. Knapp High School in the Currituck County school district. The school will provide students with a rigorous, relevant and responsive environment blended with a virtual learning environment. Students taking courses through the school will earn a high school diploma, as well as two years of college credit in up to five years of study.